

Inquests Held for Two Crash Victims; Driver Faces Penalty

One coroner's jury served at two inquests last Friday afternoon at Stone and Myers' chapel. As result of the jury's verdict, Nick Ruelas, 24, Redondo Beach, was charged with negligence in the death Nov. 16, of his 62-year-old uncle, Francisco Ruelas of 25039 Walnut street, Lomita. A recommendation that the young Mexican be "held to answer" had previously been carried out by local police.

Ruelas will be given a preliminary hearing Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock in City Judge Robert Lessing's courtroom on a charge of negligent homicide. He is now confined in the city jail in lieu of \$1,500 bail.

The second inquest pertained to the death last Thursday of Mrs. Max Ross of 4300 Emerald street, Redondo Beach, who was fatally injured Nov. 15 when her sedan and a Pacific Electric car collided at Hawthorne boulevard and the El Nido crossing. The jury held that the collision was accidental and absolved R. K. Weaver, motorman, on the electric car, of blame.

Refuses to Testify

Members of the jury which did double service were Emmett Marlett, Oliver Medicus, G. E. Harless, E. M. North, John Shidler and H. W. Slover, Deputy County Coroner Arthur Kane was in charge of the sessions and conducted the examination of witnesses.

Six witnesses were questioned during the Ruelas inquest, one being Nick Ruelas, charged with the homicide. After identifying himself, he refused to testify on the advice of his attorney. Benente Ruelas, brother of the victim, stated that Francisco Ruelas was a widower and a native of Mexico. Sergeant Frank J. Schumacher and Officer Willard R. Barnett reported the police investigation.

They testified that on receiving information early on the morning of Nov. 14 they went to Torrance boulevard where turns north to become Western avenue and found traces of a car mishap but no car. Later, Victor Pacheco, Redondo youth, was picked up on the street and admitted he was in the auto that had turned over, been righted by three of its four occupants and taken to Francisco Ruelas' house in Lomita.

Considerable Drinking

On arriving there, the officers stated they found "Nick in a drunken stupor" and that Frank Mendosa, also of Redondo, beside him, asleep but sobbing up and down. Francisco Ruelas stretched out on the ground beside the car. He was unconscious and lying face down. On being brought to the police station, a medical report stated that the older man, found he was paralyzed from the neck down. He was taken to the county general hospital where he died last Wednesday afternoon.

Pacheco and Mendosa testified that the party had considerable alcohol and beer consumed. Nick Ruelas was driving when the accident occurred. Pacheco said that Nick swerved the car sharply to avoid hitting another machine at the intersection of Torrance boulevard corner which caused the car to turn over. Francisco Ruelas was not thrown out of the car, and they got to Lomita they were unable to lift him into the house—so they left him on the ground. The autopsy report showed he died of a fractured vertebrae and rupture of the spinal cord.

Auto Hit Broadside

Principal witness at the inquest into the death of Mrs. Ross was Motorman Weaver, who resides in Redondo Beach. He testified that Mrs. Ross "must have been driving from 45 to 50 miles an hour" when he saw the car approaching. He was applying his emergency air brakes and (Continued on Page 2)

Fem Grid Fan Tops All Score Guessers in Herald Contest

To Miss Dorothy Mearling of 2211 Andree goes two honors: She was the best "Score Picker" of last week's final Herald Football Contest—winning a couple of tickets to the U.S.-U.C.L.A. "civil war" in the Coliseum on Thanksgiving Day; she had the lowest (and therefore the best) score of any Grid Prophet during the seven-week contest, and she picked every winning team in 10 games.

Miss Mearling will call at The Herald office she will be presented with the tickets to the "big game" Thursday afternoon. In second place last week was Millard Nicovich, whose score was 156. He missed but one winning team. Coach Robert Barr of the high school football team entered the final week's contest. But being a mentor of a championship eleven is no guarantee that you are an expert. Bob Guesser, Barr's misnamed naming six winning teams out of the 19 games listed for the last Herald contest.

During the past seven weeks, The Herald awarded 14 tickets to the outstanding games played in the Coliseum. Previous winners were: Leslie L. Prince, Louis Briganti, 911 Amopola; T. L. Masterson, 1315 Sartre; Miss Evelyn Warning, 803 Cota; Max Cox, Spurlin Court, and Earl Rinkler, 1803 Cabrillo. The Herald thanks those who entered, the merchants who made the Football Contest Page the interesting feature it was and now awaits the opening of the 1939 season for another Grid Prophet series.

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SANTA DUE HERE FRIDAY NIGHT!



Three centuries ago a handful of men and women knelt to give thanks to the Creator for having preserved them from the dangers of the forbidding wilderness and rewarded their labors with a harvest of sufficient food to carry them through the long winter ahead.

Today one hundred and thirty million Americans have cause to thank the Creator for having preserved them from the dangers of the forbidding wilderness of oppression, dictatorship, Communism and war that surround us as a raging sea surrounds a safe island—to thank Him for having rewarded our labors with comforts of living beyond the dreams of the humble Puritans.

Today, as then, thankfulness for the past connotes thankfulness for present opportunity

to make for ourselves a better future. Democracy and liberty preserved give us freedom to build stronger barriers of steadfast faith against the deadly infection of foreign "isms," as preservation from savages and starvation enabled the Puritans to strengthen their rude forts and extend their hard-won food acreage.

We have clung to liberty for the common man, while whole peoples have yielded theirs. We have kept to the path of peace, while armies ravage other lands. Most serious problems confront us—problems of labor strife, of enormous tax debts, of economic dislocation still unconquered.

But we have the freedom and the will, the resources and the mechanics, to overcome all our problems. Let us be thankful.



Union Thanks Service Thursday

City Officials of County Hold Meeting Here

One hundred fifty-seven municipal officials and their wives from 28 of the county's 44 incorporated cities and 61 Torrance residents, city officials and their wives, making a total of 218, attended the 90th dinner-meeting of the Los Angeles county division of the League of California Municipalities last Thursday night in the Civic Auditorium.

Two speakers, two acts of excellent vaudeville entertainment, musical numbers and a fine turkey dinner were the highlights of the occasion. Leo Smith, Marysville city councilman who is president of the state municipalities league, and Dr. John Friffee, dean of the School of Public Administration at U.S.C., were the principal speakers.

The entertainment, consisting of topical songs by the Four Valerly Boys and some more comedy by Olson and Sabar, whose pantomime for a couple out motoring in the gay 90's was a real hit, was obtained for the occasion by Councilman Tom McGuire. Nearly every local official was present and introduced by Mayor William H. Tolson after he gave the address of welcome. (Continued on Page 4)

RIGHT TO WORSHIP REMAINS SECURE IN FREE AMERICA

All residents of Torrance and vicinity are cordially invited by the local Ministerial association to attend the special union Thanksgiving Day service in the Civic Auditorium which will start at 10 o'clock Thursday morning.

"As our country faces the totalitarian nations curbing the rights of people to worship God as they choose and are curtailing the freedom of the press and other Democratic institutions and organizations, all Christian people are reminded of the greatest of them by the early settlers in Plymouth, Mass. where they secured complete freedom in the New World," an announcement from the Ministerial group this week reads.

Dinner-Meeting For Solons in Torrance Tonight

Members of nearly all political parties, men and women in all walks of life from every part of the 17th Congressional district will gather at the Torrance Civic Auditorium tonight (Nov. 22) for a dinner-meeting that has a two-fold purpose. More than 400 are expected to attend the session, starting at 7 o'clock, which will mutually acquaint the recently-elected Congress and Legislative representatives with their constituents and citizens with the men who will represent the district in Washington and Sacramento.

The Torrance event is a non-partisan affair being held to "let the people know" the aims and aspirations of such men as Leo E. Geyer, congressman-elect; Fred Reeves, Cecil King and Jack Massion, assemblymen-elect.

'Politics' Now Forgotten

Geyer and the new assemblymen have expressed their delight at being tendered this "introductory" dinner-meeting and they declared yesterday that politics, as such, are now a thing of the past, that each desired to represent his district at the capitals in a manner that would benefit the most residents, industries and organized groups.

Tickets for the affair, priced at 75 cents each, may be obtained from local committee workers, the Torrance Gift Shop, the Torrance Pharmacy or at the door of the Auditorium on El Prado at Cravens avenue tonight. Howard P. Raymond, president of the Torrance Democratic club, will be chairman and introduce the speakers and distinguished guests.

WANTS COURT TRIAL

R. L. Bode, 25-year-old steelworker residing at 2014 Torrance boulevard, demanded a court trial when he was arraigned on charges of drinking in a public place and being intoxicated Saturday night. The hearing was set for Tuesday morning and he was released on \$50 bail.

Mrs. Theobald Wins Range at Cooking School

"We are treating our new gas range like one of the family and it is treating us in the best meals my husband says he has ever eaten," Mrs. Charles E. Theobald declared yesterday. She was the winner of the Gaffers and Sattler range that was given by Harry Abramson of the National Home Appliance company as the major award when The Herald's cooking school closed last Friday.

Mrs. Theobald, who lives at 1629 West 221st street, was presented with the brand-new range by Abramson, who said he was delighted to make the award and wished her "many happy cooking hours" with it. The new range was promptly installed in place of one that had served Mr. and Mrs. Theobald for the past 14 years.

Tony Nady Wins Honor Rating at Naval Station

Tony M. Nady, son of Mrs. J. M. Nady of 1616 Amopola, was selected as the "honor man" of his Navy company by instructors at the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego for the week ending Nov. 12, according to Mrs. Theobald, who lives at 1629 West 221st street, was presented with the brand-new range by Abramson, who said he was delighted to make the award and wished her "many happy cooking hours" with it. The new range was promptly installed in place of one that had served Mr. and Mrs. Theobald for the past 14 years.

G. P. to Start New Buildings This Week

Work is scheduled to start this week on construction of the \$45,000 office and control laboratory building for the General Petroleum Corporation, according to J. Diekey, vice president in charge of engineering for the company.

A storage building to cost \$3,000 also is to be built as the newest unit in the company's huge multi-million-dollar expansion program. Construction is to be of wood frame and stucco.

Couple Escape Serious Injuries in Car Crash

Although their car was knocked over and over and landed on its side, the Darlington couple escaped serious injuries last Saturday afternoon in an automobile collision at 174th and Crenshaw. Mrs. Josie F. Darlington, 59, was badly bruised and shaken but her husband suffered only slight bruises. She was removed to the San Pedro hospital.

The Darlintons were driving north on Crenshaw in their sedan when it was struck on the left rear wheel by a coach driven by Satoru Otani, of 182nd and Redondo boulevard, who was going east on 174th. The San Pedro car was bowled over and landed 72 feet from the point of impact, according to police reports.

Radios City to Announce Flight from North Pole!

Down from the snow-bound North Pole, flashing with the speed of light from a busy workshop to the tip of the tall KNX transmitter mast and then over a special leased direct to this newspaper last night. It conveyed a message to every boy and girl—from two to 20 and their parents—from a man who is preparing for the greatest trip the world has ever known. Here is the actual message as taken down in shorthand by a stenographer:

"Hello, there! Hello, Torrance! This is Santa Claus speaking!"

The Herald staff, clustered around the office loudspeaker, cheered.

"I'm broadcasting from my North Pole office direct to you folks on The Herald to ask that you tell all my friends in your city that I'm going to be in Torrance next Friday night—that's Nov. 25—and... wait a minute, one of my helpers just came in to tell me that we've got to make another million dollars..."

(Then the listeners at this newspaper office heard Santa say:)

"Alright, alright—go ahead and make them—now let me get back to my message to Torrance... Are you there, Torrance?... Well, I'll be in your city Friday night at 7:30 o'clock. Will you have someone meet me at your nearest airport because I'm flying down?"

(Shouts of "Of course we will—we'll have the fire truck meet him and bring him to Torrance in style!" Then Santa went on.)

Two Suspended Firemen to Face Discipline Action

For the first time since civil service regulations were inaugurated here, charges of asserted misconduct against two city employees—A. D. "Ollie" Stevenson, fire chief who was reduced to captain last June, and Fireman Jay Benner—will be investigated by the Torrance civil service commission within the next few weeks. It was learned yesterday.

The two members of the fire department were given 30-day suspensions by Director John Stroh of the public safety (fire and police) department as result of an alleged fist-fight between them and their subsequent failure to report on duty. Stroh said he suspended the men and later filed charges against them with the civil service board.

Stevenson, who was demoted from fire chief June 29 when the city council combined the police and fire departments under the supervision of Director Stroh, and Benner have not been friendly for months.

Chairman in East

When Stroh learned of the fight and that both men did not report a full shift on duty at the central fire station shortly afterward, he immediately handed out 30-day suspensions for both. Last week, it is understood, he filed the misconduct charges against them and placed the matter of disciplinary action directly in the hands of the civil service board.

The chairman of this commission, J. O. Bishop, is now in the city on a tour of duty at the Santa Anita station to congratulate her. They were de-

(Continued on Page 4)

Second Herald Issue This Week Will be Published on Friday

This pre-Thanksgiving edition of The Herald is not the only one to be published this week. Another issue will be rolled off the press, full of interesting news of Torrance people and events, Friday. It will be distributed early Friday afternoon. Today's edition provides you with news and Thanksgiving dinner suggestions. Make your shopping list from the advertisements in it NOW!

Stores Open Wednesday Night

Most of the service stations in Torrance will close Thanksgiving Day at 1 o'clock. The owners and operators urge local motorists to stock up on supplies Wednesday or Thursday morning.

Some Service Stations to Close

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